



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO Box 47890, Olympia, Washington 98504-7890

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April 1, 2014

The Honorable Ray Campbell, Chairman
The Honorable Sheilah Kennedy
The Honorable Jim DeTro
Okanogan County Commissioners
123 Fifth Avenue North, Room 150
Okanogan, Washington 98840

Dear Commissioners Campbell, Kennedy, and DeTro:

Thank you for your letter requesting a change to the rules for Group B Public Water Systems.

I have forwarded your request to Michelle Davis, Executive Director for the State Board of Health, as this chapter of rules resides with the Board's authority. You can expect that Michelle and her staff will act promptly on this petition for rulemaking and keep you informed of the status of your request.

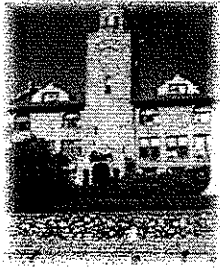
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wiesman".

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Michelle Davis, State Board of Health





OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Sheilah Kennedy
Commissioner District 1
Ray Campbell
Commissioner District 2
Jim DeTro
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

March 24, 2014

John Wiesman, Secretary of Health
Washington State Department of Health
P.O. Box 47890
Olympia, WA 98504-7890

Honorable Secretary Wiesman,

The State Department of Health has adopted a new, revised rule pertaining to "Group B Public Water Systems" (WAC 246-291 effective 1/1/14). Through the adoption of these new rules Group B water systems with 2 to 9 connections are not allowed to treat their water supply systems unless the local Boards of Health have adopted local rules of equal or greater strength that allows and makes provisions for treatment system to be applied. This has allowed standards whereby these small systems would not be allowed to exist if the local boards of health feel compelled not to act.

As members of Quad County Commissioners, including Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties and Okanogan County Public Health District Board of Directors, Okanogan County feels that public health standards rise above the need to force adoption of an unfunded mandate to adopt local rules in order to allow our citizens to construct and treat water for safe drinking; i.e. – if raw water does not meet testing standards local health jurisdictions cannot approve treatment of the system and it could not be approved for use. This creates the potential of people using unapproved and unhealthful water and we hope you agree with us that this is absolutely unacceptable.

We understand that there are health districts that may want more local oversight of Group B water systems, but individuals districts should have that option without being forced to decide between unhealthful water conditions or an unfunded mandate of oversight with no health risk.

RECEIVED

APR - 1 2014

DOH OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Therefore, we respectfully request that you file a CR-101 as soon as possible and open WAC 246-291 for revision to fix this error, as well as consider adopting an emergency rule in the interim. Okanogan County is prepared to take actions to approve system treatments unilaterally, but prefers not to take this path of action.

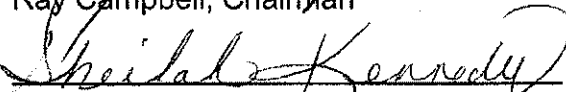
We further request that our local health district and Okanogan County be given stakeholder status so that we are able to help work to the mutually beneficial conclusion of good, safe group water systems.

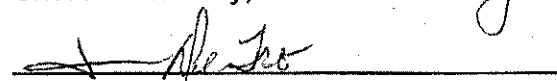
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Ray Campbell, Chairman


Sheilah Kennedy, Member


Jim DeTro, Member